
STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HIGHLIGHTS OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
April 6, 2004

Dr. Jean S. Murray, Superintendent

Patricia Healy, Chairman

This was the first meeting with the 5:00 p.m. start time. The agenda format changed with the Consent Agenda, Information Items and Special Presentations presented at 5:00 p.m. The Awards Presentations, Citizen Comments, Report of the School Board and Report of the Superintendent followed after the meeting was reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- Byron Hinton presented the CTE Advisory Committee Annual Report to the School Board followed by the presentation of the CTE Annual Plan by Dr. Andrea Bengier and Edie Allen. Action on the plan is requested at the April 27, 2004, meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

The School Board approved:

- The minutes of the March 23, 2004 meeting
- The approval of the high school summer camps.
- The field trip request from the Colonial Forge High School DECA class to compete in the International DECA Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.
- The purchase of 210 desktop computers from Sigma Systems Corporation, to replace instructional computers currently in use at Moncure (100) and Rockhill (110) Elementary Schools. The total estimated cost of this purchase is \$220,290.00.
- The purchase of reading trade books from Perma-Bound Books for Margaret Brent Elementary School that will not exceed \$32,000.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The School Board received information on the following:

- Local Plan for Career and Technical Education for 2004-2005 school year. (Action Requested: April 27, 2004)
- The Special Education Annual Plan and Federal funding application. (Action Requested: April 27, 2004)
- The proposed 2004-2005 School Calendar (Action Requested: April 27, 2004)
- The 2004 academic and enrichment summer programs (Action Requested: April 27, 2004)

AWARDS

- Fran Sprankle, a math teacher at Brooke Point High School, was recognized for receiving the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching. Ms Sprankle was one of 95 teachers nationwide to receive this honor.
- Vernan Musselman received the Merit for the Millennium Award for being a dedicated volunteer at Ferry Farm Elementary School.
- Anna Ames, a music teacher at Rockhill Elementary School, received the Merit for the Millennium Award for her development of a musical based on the Virginia Studies Standards of Learning Objectives.
- Fred Franklin, retired drama teacher, was recognized for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Virginia Theater Association.
- Several Stafford County media specialists received the School Board proclamation designating April 2004 as School Library Media Month.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- There were 51 citizen comments received by the School Board. Many citizens commented on concern for the 2004-2005 school budget. Most comments were in support of various art, music, drama and foreign language programs throughout the school system. Citizens requested that the School Board serve as advocates for the school system.
- Stafford Education Association members presented a declaration for change citing a crisis in education in Stafford County. Communication issues and employee morale issues were mentioned.
- Donald Rainville presented a petition to prohibit inappropriate music at school dances, sporting events, and on school buses. Donna Aquvida of the Thompson Middle School PTO, supported the parents' responsibility to teach students to be good citizens. She stated that parents do not want their children exposed to inappropriate music, nor should the schools play religious-based music, but there must be a reasonable medium. PTO members from Rodney Thompson Middle School explained that the PTO and parents had worked very diligently to ensure inappropriate music was not played at school dances. Other parents and community members expressed their opinions on appropriate music at school dances.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

- Board members thanked the citizens who spoke during the Citizen Comment period.
- Mr. Sullivan stated that he attended the Ferry Farm Elementary School PTO Town Hall meeting where there was much support for the school board budget.
- Mr. Villacres stated the School Board needs to share the facts in the budget issue, value everyone's opinion and "remember to keep children first in our decision making."
- Mr. Belman reported that the Sheriff's Office and Shawn Renfro donated weight equipment to Stafford High School. He expressed his appreciation of the AYES launch at Brooke Point High School stressing the business partnership that brought 6 new cars to the CTE program in Stafford County. He stated that the budget information in the schools is incorrect and that students receiving extra credit for sending emails was embarrassing.
- Mrs. Reinboldt stated she will advocate for corporate sponsorships of Stafford County's athletic stadiums.
- Mr. Hunt said that "we need professional honest truth presented and we need to work together." He stated he will not ever support any cut in art, music and drama. He asked that a policy be drafted for appropriate music for all grades.
- Mrs. Healy announced that Pam Kahle, principal at Garrisonville Elementary School, was found guilty on two charges in a mock trial presented by the GES Focus program. On the budget issue, she stated the School Board needs to let the public know the potential impacts of inadequate funding.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. Murray announced the AYES Launch program at Brooke Point High School was a very positive combination of business and education working together to provide quality education and training for Stafford County students.
- She announced that the regional winner of B101.5's Reading Celebration was Park Ridge Elementary School.

ACTION ITEMS

- After a closed session, a motion was made by Mr. Hunt and seconded by Mr. Sullivan that the School Board allow publication of non-curricular club pictures in elementary and middle school yearbooks with a "Not School-Sponsored" disclaimer, where possible because of publication time lines, and develop countywide policies and regulations for implementation in school year 2004-2005.

***NEXT MEETING: April 27, 2004, 7:00 p.m.
6:00 p.m. Student Roundtable
Alvin York Bandy School Administrative Complex***